



# The Lemonier Express

## December 2003

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## Message From the Commander

Christmas...what a wonderful time of the year. Snow, decorations, music, family traditions, caroling, children, stockings, gifts, candy canes and fruit cake, shopping, and the familiar smell of favorite foods...all memories that we love and share, and that this year we will miss. Everyone wants to be "home for the holidays"! This year will be different. This year we answer to a higher calling.

As we enter this Christmas Season, I want to thank each of you for the exceptional role you have played in the success of this mission. The cooperative spirit, joint atmosphere, and commitment to excellence that I have observed these past months is second to none. The scope of your mission is intimidating. You are a Task Force of 1200, while Iraq is 180,000 and Afghanistan is 12,000. Your area of operation is five times larger than Iraq and Afghanistan combined and it includes 6 countries and one failed state (Somalia). Our partnership consists of 13 nations, 6 Ambassadors and Country Teams, all elements of the US Interagency, and Naval Forces. Your successes include:

- Hundreds of Trans National Terrorists Exposed
- Dozens of Trans National Terrorists Captured or Killed
- 15 Humanitarian Assistance Programs conducted in 6 countries
- 16 Civil Military Projects completed in 6 countries
- 35 Civil Military Projects on-going or projected
- Coastal and border security operations with four countries
- Plans to develop coastal security, border security, national-level CT capability, and improved intelligence architecture in six countries.
- Pressure that has disrupted planned terrorists attacks.
- Pressure that has disrupted the recruitment, training, and shipping of foreign fighters.
- Host Nation and local populous attitudes favorably changed.

Simply amazing! You have made a significant difference in an area of the world that most do not even know exists, but that is one of the prime potential terrorist breeding grounds in the world. General Abizaid has held you up as the model for what Iraq and Afghanistan need to look like in the future. You should be very proud of what you have accomplished.

Separation is never easy. That is why we refer to it in terms like sacrifice, service, commitment, and endurance. As we enter this Christmas Season, I know that each of you would rather be at home with family and loved ones. It is easy to forget amongst the festivities at home that it is not the Christmas tree, presents, or stockings that are the main attraction. This year I ask you to reflect on the real reason we celebrate this special season. Over two thousand years ago, I believe God gave us the ultimate gift in the form of His Son Jesus Christ on that cold winter's night in Bethlehem. It is because of His birth that we celebrate this season by giving gifts to one another. I hope this year's celebration is a special one for each of you – in spite of your separation from home.

These are challenging times, and we are a Nation at war. We were attacked. Now we fight a foe that seeks to destroy the freedoms and benefits that those before us died to create and maintain. Thank you for your heroic effort, supreme sacrifice, superb results, and commitment to excellence most only read about in history books. It is a privilege to serve with great Americans who are destined to be known as the next Greatest Generation. Your work ensures our children and grandchildren will continue to enjoy the freedoms that we cherish, and that most take for granted. It is true that "freedom has a special flavor that the protected never know." You know...and I thank you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Mastin M. Robeson  
Brigadier General, US Marine Corps  
Commander, CJTF-HOA



### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

#### CJTF-HOA Info

- 1(866)360-3775
- 1(910)451-2222

#### American Red Cross

- 1(877)272-7337

#### TriCare Appointment/Advice

- 1(800)931-9501

#### CJTF-HOA Family Readiness Officer, Djibouti, Africa

- Lt. Kevin S. Barnett - USN

- 24 hrs Tel: 011-973-82-9257
- e-mail: [froafrica@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:froafrica@hoa.centcom.mil)

#### Family Readiness Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

- Lt. J. A. Polson - USMC

- Tel: (910) 451-8735
- e-mail: [frousa1@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:frousa1@hoa.centcom.mil)

#### Family Readiness Staff Non-Commissioned Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

-GySgt. F. V. Munoz

- Tel: (910) 451-8719
- e-mail: [frousa2@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:frousa2@hoa.centcom.mil)

## *From the Enduring Freedom Chapel*

The holidays for us in Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, and for you at home have a different feel this year. Normal routines are disrupted by our wartime deployment as we are separated from you, our loved ones, and things familiar. The cold weather and occasional snow flurry we might normally associate with this season is instead

replaced by the warmth of the African winter. But most importantly, all of us are coping with separation from one another. This change in routine offers each of us a new opportunity to reflect, discover and appreciate this holy time of year in different ways.

We are busy fulfilling our military obligations while keeping the holiday spirit active aboard the camp and in our hearts. Our chapel is decorated with lights and there are festive displays in the chow hall, the medical clinic and even some of our tents. All of these efforts are outer manifestations of an inner resolve to accomplish our mission while keeping



the spirit of the season alive, and you, our loved ones, in sight. Our chapel program continues to offer religious services for all faiths to meet the spiritual needs of our men and women. Additionally, we are continuing our involvement with all three orphanages – boys, girls, and babies, in order to demonstrate our love and concern for the

children of Djibouti.

We are keeping this holy season in our hearts and trust you are doing the same. We send you our love and best wishes as you reflect upon the joys of this holy time of year and simply ask you to continue to pray for us, as we pray for you. May the blessings of God, our love for one another, and the joy of this season sustain us all.

Chaplain Jack Lea



*Pictured above is a recent photo of the Chapel Enduring Freedom.*

# Troops See President Usher in Christmas at the White House

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample,  
USA

American Forces Press Service  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 2003 — The countdown began with “5,” and four seconds later the 40-foot blue spruce burst forth in with red, white and green — Christmas at the White House had officially begun. President Bush and wife, Laura, greeted hundreds of children, their families and special guests on the White House lawn in chilly temperatures to watch the national Christmas tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 4. The annual event first began in 1923 with the nation’s 30th president, Calvin Coolidge. Several service members from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom were among those assembled. Many came from nearby Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where they are recovering from injuries suffered in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I know your families are glad to have you back,” the president told them. “They’re proud of your service, and so is our country. On behalf of all Americans, welcome home, and job well done. We also honor all of our fellow Americans serving far away from home during the holidays.” He then reminded the audience that for those serving in the military, separation from loved ones is especially difficult this time of year. “Our people in uniform can know that their families miss them and love them, that millions are praying for them, and that America is grateful for the men and women who serve and defend our country.”

Although the president’s arrival brought cheers, he may have been upstaged when the evening’s most important guest — Santa (this year, actor and former pro NFL player Merlin Olsen) — arrived.

Bush amused the crowd by comparing his clandestine Thanksgiving Day visit to troops in Iraq a week earlier to that of Santa on Christmas Eve. The president acknowledged that “it’s always good to see Santa. Then he turned his attention to the jolly gent: “I know you’ve got a lot of commitments this time of year. We also know how Santa gets around: He travels in the dark of night, he arrives unannounced, and he’s gone before you know he was there. And in a bull’s-eye reference to their respective journeys, the president said, “Santa, I can assure you, it’s a lot easier on a flying sled than it is on Air Force One.” The president also told the story of why Christmas is celebrated, and he emphasized that the words of Christmas have spread a message across generations.

“The poor have heard words of hope, the proud have heard words of challenge, and the weak and the dying have heard words of assurance. And mankind has been given a message first delivered by angels on a shepherd’s field: ‘Fear not.’”

The president told the audience that “as we near Christmas in a time of war, these words bring comfort.” “We don’t know all of God’s ways, yet the Christmas story promises that God’s purpose is justice, and His plan is peace.”

This year’s event included performances by actress Shirley Jones, opera soprano Twyla Robinson, and the cast of the Broadway musical “Mamma Mia.” Country band Lonestar played several Christmas tunes, accompanied by the United States Coast Guard Band.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample.

*Children from the VOENA (Voices of Eve’n Angels) choir perform for the audience at this year’s national tree-lighting ceremony at the White House Dec. 4. The international children’s choir is from Benicia, Calif.*



# Unit Updates

## 478th Civil Affairs Battalion (SO)

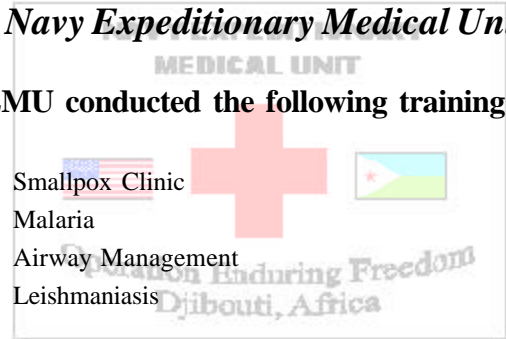
### C Company completed the following mission:

- ✓ VETCAP November 11-13 at Dorra, Djibouti. The C Co., 478th Bns Civic Action Team treated a total of 2822 sheep, goats and camels during the mission.

## Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit

### The EMU conducted the following training:

- ✓ Smallpox Clinic
- ✓ Malaria
- ✓ Airway Management
- ✓ Leishmaniasis

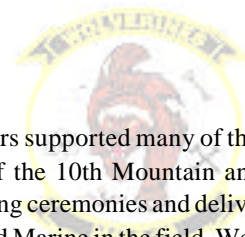


## HMH-464 Det A (Rein) "Condors and Wolverines"

### The "Condors and Wolverines" conducted the following Flight Training:

- ✓ Desert and mountain flying in the joint environment
- ✓ Night Vision Goggle refueling with the Air Force
- ✓ Area familiarization for commanders completed
- ✓ Long-range supply flight to Hurso, Ethiopia
- ✓ Ramp mounted weapons qualifications
- ✓ Two new section leaders were trained

- ✓ The Condors supported many of the other units here with flights in support of the 10th Mountain and 478th Civil Affairs during a ribbon cutting ceremonies and delivered hot Thanksgiving dinner to soldiers and Marine in the field. We also were responsible for taking the Secretary of the Navy back to the USS Germantown. December promises to be just as demanding for us.



## Task Force Betio

### Task Force Rawhide conducted the following training:

- ✓ Company Battle Site Zero our weapons
- ✓ Joint shoot with MWSS-273
- ✓ Enhanced Marksmanship Program training with .50 Cals
- ✓ Sniper marksmanship training

### Congratulation to the fallowing Marine promoted in November:

#### Staff Sergeant to Gunnery Sergeant:

Gunnery Sgt. Tuan V. Pham

#### Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:

Staff Sgt. Chad L Dickinson

#### Lance Corporal to Corporal:

Cpl. Timohty P. Arnold - Meritorious on Dec. 2  
Cpl. Philip P. Keeku - Meritorious on Dec. 2  
Cpl. Eric J. Garza

#### Private First Class to Lance Corporal:

Lance Cpl. Christopher S. Bluthenthal  
Lance Cpl. Ryan L. Piche

**Events:** Staff Sgt. "Chip" Lundgren was beaten by "lovestick" the monkey in the 5th round by TKO. Afterwards they were seen making up behind the Cantina, Budweiser was said to be involved.

# Unit Updates Continued

## 463rd Engineers

**The 463rd Engineers conducted the following training:**

- ✓ Continued Mil-to-Mil training with the Djiboutian Army Engineer Company at Hol Hol Road
- ✓ Continued training with select Djiboutian civilians. Teaching carpentry/masonry skills and operation of heavy equipment

**The 463rd Engineers also completed the following missions:**

- ✓ Completed the renovation of a school in Kontail, Djibouti.
- ✓ Construction of a road between Djibouti City and Hol Hol, Djibouti
- ✓ Completed the construction of Shoot House for Camp Lemonier
- ✓ Completed the construction of a new Entry Control Point near the airfield
- ✓ Completed renovations to Building 111.
- ✓ Continued to place sidewalks near the Cantina.

## 916th Engineer Detachment

The 916th Engineers has begun drilling water wells in the northern region of Djibouti and has installed a hand pump on an existing well for a small village.

## CJTF-HOA Engineers

**The CJTF-HOA Engineers are conducting the following missions:**

- ✓ Started work on Ali Adde School
- ✓ Started work on Tadjoura Hospital
- ✓ Started work on Obock School
- ✓ Started work on Assamo Clinic
- ✓ Continued work on Ali Sabieh Hospital

## Command Logistics Element

- ✓ A pistol range was conducted for Marines and sailors for MARCENT-Djibouti in Nov. 27.

## MWSS-273

**The MWSS 273 conducted the following training:**

- ✓ Marines of 2nd squad finished the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Tan Belt training

**The MWSS 273 also completed the following missions:**

- ✓ Continues to provide airfield security.

## Promotions

### 478th Civil Affairs Bn.

#### From Captain to Major:

✓ Maj. Alfred Kelly



#### From Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:

✓ Staff Sgt. Leon LaBeach

✓ Staff Sgt. Eduardo Gonzalez



### 463rd Engineers

#### From Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:

✓ Staff Sgt. Jon D. Arnold, Jr.

#### From Specialist to Sergeant:

✓ Sgt. Stymie D. Doolan



### 916th Engineers

#### From Specialist to Sergeant:

✓ Sgt. Justin P. Haugen

✓ Sgt. Tyler DeVore



#### From Private First Class to Specialist:

✓ Spc. Veronica C. Hanson

✓ Spc. Jesse S. Wamsley



### MWSS 273

#### From Corporal to Sergeant:

✓ Sgt. David A. Bethea



### EMU

#### From Seaman to Petty Officer 3rd Class:

✓ Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris S. Barnes

✓ Petty Officer 3rd Class George W. Barr

✓ Petty Officer 3rd Class Autumn D. Grabo



### HMH 464

#### From Captain to Major:

✓ Maj. Richard A. Bogin

#### From Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:

✓ Staff Sgt. Jesse A. Walters

#### From Lance Corporal to Corporal:

✓ Cpl. Jesus L. Salas

#### From Private First Class to Lance Corporal:

✓ Lance Cpl. Timothy R. Lenig

## Awards and Recognition

### CJTF-HOA

CJTF-HOA had a number of noteworthy recognitions last month:

✓ Lt. Col. Shirley	Defense Meritorious Service Medal
✓ Maj. Sauter	Joint Service Commendation Medal
✓ Lt. Parra	Joint Service Commendation Medal
✓ MSgt. Sartin	Joint Service Commendation Medal
✓ Tech. Sgt. Smith	Joint Service Commendation Medal
✓ Tech. Sgt. Holstein	Joint Service Commendation Medal
✓ Staff. Sgt. Hansen	Joint Service Commendation Medal

✓ Staff Sgt. Shawn Lowry was selected as the CJ-6 communicator of the month

✓ Staff Sgt. Shawn Lowry was selected as the Camp Lemonier Service Member of the Month

### MWSS 273

MWSS 273 had the following noteworthy recognition:

✓ Lance Cpl. Bourdon was selected as the Marine of the Month Nov. 15. after winning the MarCent Marine of the Month Board.

### EMU

EMU had the following noteworthy recognition:

✓ Petty Officer 2nd Class Gabriel A. Leyva recived a Letter of Appreciation from the commanding officer of Airborne Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base.

## Reenlistments

### HMH-464

Staff Sgt. J.A. Walters

## Welcome Aboard Camp Lemonier

### CJTF-HOA

Sgt. Moses K. Allen-USMC  
 Lt. Col. Michael C. Berryman-USMC  
 Lt. Cmdr. Christopher C. Chun-USN  
 Sgt. Thomas J. Cirello-USA  
 1st Lt. John E. Cole-USAF  
 Col. Ken E. Curell-USAF  
 Sgt Neftali Diaz-USA  
 PO2 Jeffrey V. Dickey-USN  
 Col. Daniel A. Donohue-USMC  
 MSgt. Aaron D. Dowdell-USA  
 Lt. Michael N. Dunn-USN  
 CPO Lyle R. Dynda-USN  
 Capt. Robert S. Grainger-USAF  
 Senior Airman Jonathan M. Gregg-USAF  
 Col. David J. Gruber-USAF  
 Cmdr. Philip M. Henry-USN

Maj. Patrick R. Hittle-USMC  
 CPO David F. Hull-USN  
 Teck. Sgt. Richard M. Hupp-USAF  
 Lt. Col. Joseph Itz-USAF  
 Sgt. Brian T. Kundert-USMC  
 Cmdr. John H. Lea III-USN  
 Master Sgt. Stephen P. Losack-USMC  
 1st Lt. Richell T. Martinez-USAF  
 CPO David D. Mayville-USA  
 Staff Sgt. Curtis K. McNeal-USA  
 Maj. Matthew R. Morris-USA  
 Staff Sgt. Reanna L. Morton-USAF  
 Gunnery Sgt. Michael T. Oliver-USMC  
 Staff Sgt. Michelle K. Phillips-USAF  
 Capt. Shawanda A. Primm-USAF  
 Tech. Sgt. Roger L. Randolph-USAF

Lt. Christopher B. Robinson-USN  
 Lt. Joe A. Rubio-USN  
 Maj. Timothy V. Schalick-USAF  
 PO1 John D. Schmierer-USN  
 Lt. Col. Ralph J. Sigler-USMC  
 Staff Sgt. Jason M. Spaid-USAF  
 PO1 Michael A. Stokes-USN  
 Tech. Sgt. Donna L. Stone-USAF  
 Staff Sgt. Ashley E. Sutton-USAF  
 Maj. Philip J. Travaglione-USAF  
 CPO Sean P. Turley-USN  
 Staff Sgt. Todd T. Vasilou-USAF  
 PO3 Christopher S. Vaughan-USN  
 Lt. Cmdr. John B. Vliet-USN  
 Capt. Ryan M. Wierzbowski-USAF  
 Lt. Comdr. Walter J. Winkler-USN  
 Capt. Courtney J. Wright-USAF  
 Maj. Charles P. Young-USAF

## Fare Thee Well

### CJTF-HOA

#### **Task Force Raw Hide**

#### **10th Mountain**

PO2 La'Dedra L. Alford-USNL  
 Cmdr. Thomas S. Armstrong-USN  
 Col. Bradley D. Arnold-USAF  
 Staff Sgt Larry S. Bakel-USAF  
 PO2 Marvin L. Barnes-USN  
 Capt. Dennis M. Bash-USN  
 Lt. Brian J. Baumer-USN  
 Mrs. Wilson R. Bernardino-DOD  
 Lt. Timothy C. Boelke-USN  
 Lt. Cmdr. Douglas M. Bridges-USN  
 Sgt. Shawn W. Butcher-USMC  
 Capt Giorgio A. Cabrera-USAF  
 PO1 John J. Caudle-USN  
 Gunnery Sgt. James P. Chino-USMC  
 Lt. J.g. David S. Coles-USN  
 Maj. Kyle P. Cunningham-USAF  
 Cmdr. Nancy Curll  
 Cmdr. Rick Curtis  
 Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence J. Dubiel-USMC  
 CMSgt. Bradley J. Fish-USAF

Lt. Robert C. Francis-USN  
 Tech. Sgt. Vicki J. Gaines-USAF  
 Lt. j.g. Roth  
 Seaman Galloway  
 Maj. Robert L. Gaulke-USAF  
 CPO Monica S. Gillis-USN  
 Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Greene-USAF  
 Maj. Charles S. Greenwald-USAF  
 Staff Sgt. Sandra M. Hansen-USAF  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George S. Harrington-USAF  
 Capt. Bradley A. Heath-USA  
 Capt. Michael M. Hoffman-USMC  
 Tech Sgt. William H. Holstein-USAF  
 Gunnery Sgt. Roy E. Hutchings-USMC  
 PO1 Robert N. Jones-USN  
 Capt. Timothy S. Knechel-USAF  
 MGySgt. Mark C. Krumrey-USMC  
 CPO James Leigh-USN  
 PO3 Roecynth V. Magpily-USN  
 Cpl. Brandon A. Martinez-USMC  
 Maj. Mary T. McCarthy-USA  
 Lt. Col. Lawrence J. Oliver-USMC  
 Lt. Francisco Parra-USN  
 Lt. Col. Kenneth J. Punter-USMC  
 Lt. David J. Rhone-USN

CWO2 Joseph P. Richards-USMC  
 MSgt. David R. Sartin-USAF  
 Maj Michael W. Sauter-USAF  
 Cmdr. Robbie H. Scott-USN  
 Sgt. Robert L. Sherry-USA  
 Lt. Col. Charles E. Shirley-USMC  
 Tech Sgt. Richard J. Smith-USAF  
 Cpl. Roger E. Spotts-USMC  
 PO1 Thompson  
 Maj. Frank W. Vetter-USA  
 PO1 Jefferey C. Warden-USN  
 Col. John H. Williams-USMC  
 Staff Sgt. Amanda L. Wofford-USAF  
 CPO Mark D. Zellars-USN

#### **Civilian:**

Mrs. Wilson R. Bernardino

#### **Coalition:**

Maj. Thibault De Chivré-COAL  
 COAL John O. Shungoh-COAL  
 COAL Sam M. Kamau-COAL  
 COAL Fred G. Kimanzi-COAL